



Read about Illiana's
tapestry of diversity
on pages 4 and 5...

Echo)))

Illiana Christian High School

Read about the boy's
performance at indoor
track on page 7...



Volume 71 Issue 7 March 24, 2017 Lansing, Illinois

Bands sync their hearts out for Go Club

Go Club raises money to fund more services while having fun

Cate Peerbolte
Reporter

On Thursday, March 16, Go Club hosted “The Show;” seven acts competed for the title of Best Band and a \$200 prize.

Acts in “The Show” performed to music by Justin Bieber, Bruno Mars, Backstreet Boys, and many more.

The audience was also able to participate by volunteering to be a part of games such as the bucket brigade, iPod idol, and the lame joke challenge. The audience also



Photo by Beth Boonstra

Teacher Rachel Drost lip syncs ‘Ready to run’ by the Dixie Chicks with seniors Anneke DeVries and Ellie Triezenberg and junior Rachel Groen dancing in the background.

voted on the star performer of the night, Malik Evans.

A panel of judges, in-

cluding Mr. and Miss Illiana (Andy Sons and Juliana Knot), voted on the win-

ner of “The Show.” Best in Black took home the title and the money with their perfor-

mance of AC/DCs “Back in Black.” Band member Norman Standish said, “It was a lot more fun than I thought it was going to be, at first I was nervous but when I was in stage I just had a good time. I am really glad I did it.”

Go Club sponsor Ms. Johnson said, “The money raised is so we [Go Club] can do more service, I think that The Show is the most fun Go Club event because it is a great event for the Illiana community to laugh together.”

Sophomore Rachel Huisman said, “It [The Show] was amazing. The bands put so much effort in their performances, and they chose great songs.”

A host of “The Show,” senior Christian Pelke said, “It was hard to get energy in the beginning but it the end it was a great success, even better than last year.”

VanStee ‘Ty’s’ knot to Hillegonds

Liz VanDrunen
Reporter

English teacher Ms. Emily VanStee is set to marry and become Mrs. Ty Hillegonds on March 25.

At 3:00pm, just across from Illiana, VanStee and her fiancé will be married in Oak Glen United Reformed Church, surrounded by 240 guests.

They met on a blind date, set up by ICHS administration secretary Mrs. Trepton and Mrs.

Hillegonds, Ty’s mother and a frequent sub. at school, at the Round the Clock in Highland. Hillegonds and VanStee were dating a year and 4 months before he proposed to her in her apartment, the day before her birthday of last year.

As the wedding nears VanStee said that, “It will be great to see all my friends and family and to finally be married.”

VanStee is excited for many reasons, including that “It’ll be nice because I won’t have to say goodbye to Ty at night, or ever really, I guess.”

VanStee said that other than having a different last name, which some students might find confusing, she plans to keep everything at school the same as it was before the wedding.

The couple plans to take a “mini-moon” consisting of three days in Chicago, right after the wedding and then in June they will go to Ireland for their official honeymoon.



Photo courtesy of Melissa Vargas

Members of the softball and track teams pose with Melissa Vargas, holding the flag they signed.

Sport teams volunteering, sending prayer packages to troops

Josh Chancellor
Reporter

In celebration of National Athletic Training Month, the athletics department hosted a service project for U.S. troops on March 15.

Melissa Vargas, Illiana’s athletic trainer, was the main coordinator for the two-hour event. She coordinated with Operation Freedom, a Christian organization whose vision statement says, “Serving God’s Word to Those Who Serve.” The

purpose of the event was to put together prayer packets for the troops.

Melissa stated, “There was about 75 people who came to help. They put together 1700 prayer packages. I think the turnout was really great, there were a lot of kids there and they really enjoyed the time.”

The group putting together the packets included student athletes, coaches and others who felt inclined to help.

In addition to the packages, the volunteers signed a flag with en-

couraging messages for the troops.

Athletic director Darren Deboer said the event was a success. “Carol, the Operation Freedom organizer, was very surprised by how many people showed up to help, and we ended up getting a lot done.”

This was the first time that Illiana has done this event and there may be more to come after the “impressive turnout this year,” according to Vargas.

“[Operation Freedom] is looking forward to working with Illiana’s students again,” said Vargas.

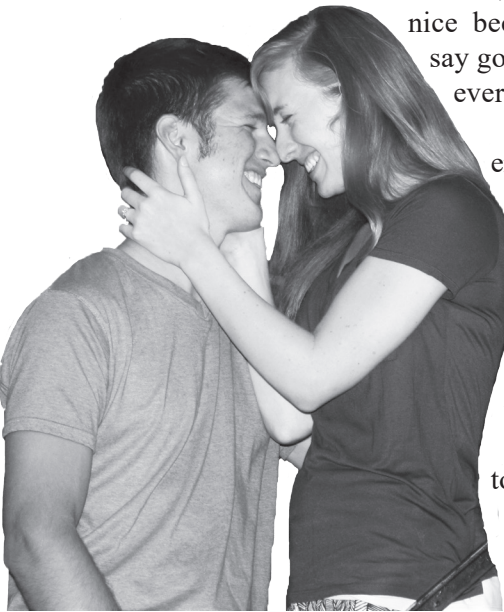


Photo courtesy of Emily VanStee
Emily VanStee stares lovingly into her fiance Ty Hillegonds’s eyes.

Breaking out of boxes

Ever since I can remember, almost every government form I've filled out has asked "What race/ethnicity are you?" On most of those forms, I was only able to pick one race. For someone like me that question is hard because I consider myself more than Black, although superficially that is my race. But, I am more than that one, little box. We all are more than that one box.



Lauren Curtis
Co-Arts Editor

Nowadays in our society, we do this constantly, profiling others and squeezing them in this little box of "white" or "black", "Hispanic" or "Asian". It is so common, we may not even notice we are doing it. It's easier to categorize people into groups, than actually to see uniqueness in each person. For example, Hispanics only receive one box on the form, which for some may be insulting because there are so many different branches in the Hispanic community. Squeezing them all into that one category isn't letting them show their true culture.

The same can be said for people of mixed race. Making a person choose one piece of themselves is hard, especially if they are proud of their different heritages. My dad was born in Israel and my mom was born in America. Although my father has passed, my mother and I still like to explore the other part of me that is Middle Eastern. To most people, I am just what they see on the outside. They are not interested in getting to know who I am culturally.

Let us not be like government forms. Get to know each other's culture and celebrate our differences. Not everyone is the same. Not all Germans are just German, not all Blacks are just Blacks and so on. We are all different, and that is what makes America so great. Explore different cultures and laugh about it. The first time I ate Indian food was at my mom's friend's house with her family. It was so new to me, I was scared to even try it. Once I did, I saw how different my food was from theirs and appreciated it. That is what we should do with each other.

We need to get past our fears and insecurities so we can get to know each other. Be bold and adventurous. Learn something new that will help you see each culture's uniqueness. Embrace each other's culture, then people will see what makes each Asian, Dominican, Mexican, Spanish, Native American, Dutch, or any other group so special.

"Let us remember we are all part of one American family. We are united in common values, and that includes belief in equality under the law, basic respect for public order, and the right of peaceful protest."-Barack Obama



Vice President Pence
@VP

What an honor to run into this group of future leaders at the White House today.



Photo courtesy of Mike Pence

Schutt and other students pose for photo with VP Mike Pence

Alumni Tyler Schutt meets POTUS, VP, other government officials

Haleigh Olthof

Reporter

Tyler Schutt, an Illiana Graduate who now works in and studies law enforcement, met President Donald Trump and also had a conversation with Vice President Mike Pence at the Boy Scouts Report to the Nation in Washington, D.C. Mar. 4 through 8.

The Boy Scouts branch of U.S. law enforcement focuses on people ages 14 to 21 who are interested in law enforcement. Schutt and others in the group sent to the White House reported service hours, the number of people in the program, and other information to government officials, as the branch is required by Con-

gress to do annually.

Schutt said of Trump, "He was actually very humble. He was very appreciative of me being in law enforcement; he was very pro-Law Enforcement, which is nice to see for our president."

Schutt and his group also talked to Vice President Pence, whom they met in the hallway during their trip. When Pence found that Schutt was from Indiana, they had a further conversation on "what law enforcement is like right now and what my plans for the future are, law enforcement-wise," said Schutt.

Schutt works for the Lansing Police Department while also pursuing a Criminal Justice Education degree at Trinity Christian College.

Pension woes hurt all

Alex Wondaal

Reporter

Illiana is a member of Christian Schools International, (CSI) an organization based in Grand Rapids, Michigan that provides employee benefits for our staff members. Recent amendments made to their pension plan resulted in salary cuts for Illiana teachers and an increased tuition cost for next year.

CSI, an organization of 404 schools, passed the amendments on December 1, 2016. They were a result of three things: longer life spans of participants, lower than expected investment returns, and increasing pension insurance premiums required by a government agency known as the Pension

Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

According to Principal Peter Boonstra, the PBGC was created as a result of the recession beginning in 2008 in order to insure retirement money when the pension funds go bust.

"That's a great thing except the cost of the premiums for that insurance have been going way up," said Boonstra

As a result of these three things, Illiana will have to pay an additional fifty percent in premiums to CSI in order to keep receiving the pension benefits. That will require a cut in teacher's salaries, a cut in teacher's pension benefits, and a five percent increase in next year's tuition. Only a portion of the five percent increase will be used to cover premiums.

The pension plan is a defined benefit plan, as opposed to a defined contribution like a 401k.

Mr. Lagerwey, one of the faculty representatives, said, "[The defined benefit plan] has been the plan for decades, it's more of a communal idea than an individual one... it's a very good plan."

"Our salaries are not grand, are not great, so to expect that our employees could fund their own pension or retirement savings is probably unreasonable," said Boonstra. "And in that sense a defined benefit plan makes the most sense for that kind of situation... even though the price has gone up, we are not giving serious consideration to dropping [the defined benefit pension plan]."

Friends plan 'Go Yellow for Abby' fundraiser

Grant Gibson

Reporter

Friends and family of senior Abby Neibert will be hosting a fundraiser for her. Dubbed "Go Yellow for Abby", the benefit will take place on April 9 at 115 Bourbon Street, a bar in Merionette Park. Although bars may hold a reputation of letting only adults over 21 enter, the fundraiser will be "kid friendly, very much so," said Abby's sister Issy.

Abby was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a cancer that attacks the bones, in her knee this past summer. Her illness has prohibited her from returning to school for most of her senior year so far. She did have a surgery to remove the cancerous leg bone in November, and has four more rounds of chemotherapy left, so a possible end is in sight.



Photo by Will Neibert

Senior Abby Neibert smiles as she poses for photo in hospital room

A range of activities will accompany the evening. There will be raffles, two bands playing, and games. Also, dinner and drinks will be available. Abby will most likely be there, unless her chemotherapy schedule disallows it.

"You don't have to be 21 or older to come out there," says William Smith, an organizer of the event along with his wife. The Smith couple

has worked alongside of the Neiberts' mom at both the Advocate Christ Medical Center and Ingalls for about 20 years.

Tickets for the event can be bought online (search "Abby Neibert" on Ticketleap.com) or at the door: kid tickets cost \$25 and adult tickets cost \$35. More information can be found under the Facebook page "Keep Calm and Keep Fighting."

Despite ill circumstances, Illiana students flourish at Solo and Ensemble competition

Caleb Last

Reporter

Despite some musicians unable to come due to sickness, some members of Illiana's bands did well on Saturday, March 4 at the Solo and Ensemble competition.

Several who were signed up to go to the competition were unable to attend due to sickness, yet Illiana's group, which consisted of nine students, did well says Mrs. Pat Menninga, Illiana's band teacher. The group which went consisted of an ensemble and three soloists, Junior Esther Lagerwey, and Sophomores Hannah Last and Lauren Courtney.

Lagerwey played the oboe and scored a one out of four and a one out of five, which are the best scores she could have received. She described the judges as nice, "giving helpful criticism and encouragement."

The ensemble, which consisted of Seniors Amanda Ipema and Machaela Whitlock, Juniors Valerie Swets and Kayla Bivona, sophomore Issy Neibert, and freshman Allison Meyer, earned a second place. The competition, says Ipema, was pretty laid back compared to other band competitions she had gone to.

Sophomores Hannah Last and Lauren Courtney also made a good showing. Last, playing the snare, got a first place. Courtney, playing clarinet, got a second place.



The Dominican Republic Mission team pauses at a morning meeting as they ready themselves for their big trip, leaving April 25.

Photo by Dave Bosman

DR mission team raises funds, spirits

Jo Mulder

Reporter

The students and faculty who are going on the Dominican Republic mission trip hosted a spaghetti supper on March 11 to raise money for the trip's expenses.

The event raised a little over \$2,000. In addition, someone donated 500 Mexican pesos.

Principal Peter Boonstra, who

is leading the group, said that he was very pleased with the outcome, noting that the dinner gives the community a chance to be involved with the trip.

He added, "We [raised] well beyond [our goal]."

"We served [and] people donated," said sophomore Mark Hernandez, who worked cleaning crew the night of the supper. For Mark, the trip will be a trip home to work at the school his mother and father founded

and to visit family and friends.

The food at the dinner consisted of typical spaghetti supper foods like bread from Walt's bakery, salads, and pasta. Homemade desserts like brownies, cupcakes, and cookies were available for anyone with a sweet tooth after dinner.

Junior Payton Smit who attended the dinner said that the food was good and the people were friendly.

Roof repairs finally done 'White' way

Kendall Smith

Reporter

After a year of fighting a leaky roof in the school's west wing, the administration seems to be getting the upper hand with a new patching strategy.

"Last year," Vice Principal AJ Turkstra explained, "we did a lot of very small patches. We'd find small cracks in the rubber membrane that we'd cover with a patch about the size of a playing card. The patches were calked in place, and they withheld water just fine until the winter freeze came this year."

After another inundation of water early this past winter, Turkstra and others from the school's building and grounds committee went back to the drawing board and came up with an

alternate plan.

Part of that plan involves creating much larger patches cut out of a roll of Polyvinyl Chloride roofing. The larger patches are glued and calked in place, and they seem to be doing a much better job repelling the water.

A second part of the plan is to place pumps in low spots to help remove water.

"Our roof doesn't drain water, so it just sits up and there," said DJ White, a substitute teacher and roofer who has helped with the patching. "That's why I had to put sump pumps up there."

Turkstra said, "We're doing something that would usually cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, and we are turning it into a couple thousands. And so far it seems to be working."

Math team qualifies for state once again, taking first at Regionals

Alex Wondaal

Reporter

On Feb. 25, the math team won its regional tournament. The victory qualified the entire team for the state tournament at the University of Illinois in Champaign on May 6.

The team, coached by math teachers Rob Lagerwey and Doug Gorter and made up of mathletes from all four grades, is shooting to win hardware down state.

Lagerwey, who has now been head coach for five seasons, said he is hoping his team can secure a top ten finish down state which would secure the team a trophy. They will compete against a total of thirty teams in Champaign.

The state tournament is not new to the math program. For example, in 2008

they took 9th place and then 10th in 2009. Just last year, they took 11th, one place out of trophy range.

This season, the math team took third in the Metro Suburban Conference and seventh at the Lemont High School math tournament where it competed against many larger schools.

Gorter said, "I have a great time

helping out with great students who are lots of fun. They work hard and do well." Gorter is looking to work hard in the weeks ahead of state. "With math, the more problems you practice the better you do," said Gorter.

Sophomore mathlete Sam Boonstra said, "We need to keep getting better as our competition gets better."



Photo courtesy of Michele Sserwadda
Speakers and committee members prepare for ARC fundraiser.

New campus donors attend Windmill Brewery fundraiser

Beth Boonstra

Co-News Editor

The Capital Campaign held a fundraiser for the new campus' ARC (Arts, Recreation, and Chapel) on Friday, Mar. 17, St. Patrick's Day, at the Windmill Brewery in Dyer, IN. Donors enjoyed a night of "reformed" beer and Illiana testimonies.

The target theme of the night was "Stories of Illiana," and this was achieved through testimonies shared by different Illiana alumni, teachers, parents, and coaches.

Counselor Neal Zandstra said, "My favorite testimony of the night was from the softball coach,... Nicole Wondaal, who worked at a public school,... and she really saw the faith of our students shine through in the way they encourage each other and talk about their faith."

Since the event was focused on the ARC, the theme was two-by-two. Illiana encouraged those invited to make a pledge for \$2,000 for two years. And if attendees had already made pledges toward the Capital Campaign, they were encouraged to

extend their pledges for two years.

The big fundraising highlight of the night was the money matching: a donor agreed to match every dollar given or pledged up to \$50,000. With the help of this anonymous donor, Illiana was able to raise a total of \$94,000.

The event was held at the Windmill Brewery, a business owned by Illiana graduates that names many of their beers after various Biblical or Reformed icons such as "The Belgian Confession" or "Sackcloth and Ashes." Several people were upset about Illiana having an event at a brewery, but by limiting the number of guests and the number of drinks per person to three, the brewery strove for responsible consumption.

Illiana emailed invitations to its entire database of adults and then required RSVP. About 125 people attended the fundraiser.

The event was catered by Sizzlebox food truck and drinks were from the Windmill Brewery. Nearly the entire event was covered by donors. Musicians Nathan and Elly Makowski, Andrew Hoekstra, and Erica Eenigenburg performed



Photo courtesy of Robert Lagerwey
Math team poses with their first place plaque at Lemont High School after winning Regionals.

2nd annual adult Local History class to begin

Natalie Togtman

Reporter

Mr. Jeff White, who teaches history classes such as Local History, has decided again to teach an adult local history class for \$60 per person. The class, which currently has thirty-two

Students enrolled, will give a history of some of the buildings in places like Chicago, Lansing, and Thornton.

"I started this class because Local History got a lot of interest from

people in the community," said Mr. White.

Some of the sites visited included Sweet Wood Civilian Conservation Corp in Thornton, Paarlberg Farm Home and Site in South Holland, Stephen Douglass Memorial in Chicago, and the World War Two Museum in Lansing. Students also learned about the history and architecture of Illiana.

Mr. Joe Jonkman took the class last year.

Jonkman said, "I enjoyed it

thoroughly! Jeff is extremely knowledgeable and a great teacher. He is passionate about history and brings the subject matter to life. I loved the way he tied local history to so many things that affected so many parts of my family's life. My wife and I are both signed up to take his class again this spring!"

The class, which helps fund Close Up, begins April 12 and will run five consecutive Wednesdays and is three hours long.

Illiana welcomes different faces, traditions,

Maddie Holesinger

Reporter

Raul Fernando Garcia was born in America, but his Mexican culture seeped into most every aspect of his life. His name testifies to his Mexican roots. Raul is a family name of his father; he is actually the 4th Raul in his family. Fernando comes from one of his family friends on his dad’s side. Using Fernando as his middle name was a way to honor that friend for what he did for his family, and Garcia is actually the surname on his dad’s side. His dad emigrated



Photo courtesy of Gracie Bultema
Gracie Bultema, a junior, poses with her younger sister Rachel Bultema in a cheongsam, a traditional chinese dress.

from Mexico, while his mom was born in the States. Garcia explained that his dad’s family enjoys visiting America because they like to experience our culture.

“Growing up was different knowing that other kids weren’t like me, but it is something you learn to accept... you learn to embrace it.”

Spanish was Garcia’s first language growing up, but now he is the only one in his family unable to speak the language.

Culture has also affected holidays in Garcia's family.

“It’s not like we celebrate specific (Mexican holidays). It is more like we take the normal ones and put the Mexican twist on it,” said Garcia.

During Christmas, the Garcia family has a traditional nativity set at their grandmother’s house, but with every generation pieces are added.

Mexican culture also influences the food Garcia grew up with. “A lot of people find the food I eat too spicy. People say that I have an acquired taste, because the food that tastes normal to me is spicy to most,” said Garcia.



Photo by Elyse Dunham
Raul Garcia, a sophomore, ponders what pose to give when asked to be in the newspaper for his Mexican background.

Tessa Buiter

Reporter

“It’s the best thing that ever happened,” said Gracie Bultema of her adoption. Bultema’s parents brought her home to the United States from China in March of 2001.

Rachel, Bultema's younger sister, was also adopted from China. As a result, both have undergone the experience of being born into one culture but raise in another.

“We used to do things for the Chinese New Year,” Bultema said. Her mom would find dresses for them to wear to church and would spend hours making chicken and egg rolls. She said, “It always smells so good in the house!” They also received gold coins and read books about the Chinese culture.

When it comes to growing up in a different culture, Bultema said, “I felt like I was accepted from young ages, even at school ... I don’t know if we were all too young to understand. They made friends with me anyways.”

Growing up Chinese in a Dutch family, she says the only major differences are the blonde hair and blue eyes.

“I would definitely want to go back [to China],” said Bultema. “I always think about it though, what would have happened if I had stayed there? ... I would have no education, know nothing about God.”

Bultema says that clubs like Better Illiana Through Better Understanding and Ni Hao Club are good because they help to understand other cultures without being stereotypical.

Kade Bouwer

Reporter

Kyle Church is a senior here at Illiana. He has a Mexican-American mother and a African-American grandpa. Based on his appearance it may not seem like he has this much diversity in his family, but he does. Life growing up in a Mexican family isn’t much different than most according to Church, but there are some differences.

“I go to a bunch of Mexican parties with my family,” said Church. “At the parties there is usually Mexican bands playing there. We get skirt skate, as we call it iechata. There is horse racing, walks in the woods, and eating contests, to see who can eat the most.”

He also goes to his cousins Quinceañeras, Latino celebrations

of a girl’s fifteenth birthday that celebrates her transition to adulthood.

The best thing according to Church about the Mexican culture is the food. His favorite Mexican food is iechata. The way he prepares his food is another big part of his Mexican heritage.

Church said, “There are different dishes that we use, so there is different cast irons and griddles we would use. Then there is different salts and seasonings that we use.”

Church has learned many lessons growing up in a Mexican home, but there were some that were more emphasised than others.

Church said, “[I learned to] always speak loudly and clearly and never look down on someone.”

Church is proud of his Mexican heritage and believes it plays a major role in his life today.

Andy Sons

Co-Feature Editor

Alex Eenigenburg, a sophomore at Illiana with a different background than most people at school. It starts with his grandparents who are natives of Sicily, Italy and who moved to America when his grandmother was pregnant with his mother looking for a better opportunity like most, bringing Italian customs and traditions with them.

Eenigenburg, who has never been to Sicily, says he really wants to visit there and see the birthplace of all the customs he’s so used to. His mom however, still keeps in touch with all the family still down there.

His mother married an American of Dutch descent, and it took a while for her family to get used to an American but eventually the two backgrounds mixed. Eenigenburg said that it’s not very difficult coming from a Sicilian background because he doesn’t have to

conform too much.

“Some traditions include always greeting family with a kiss on the cheek, every Sunday family is over and we have pasta and on Christmas Eve we always have seafood because that’s what Italians always have as a meatless meal,” said Eenigenburg. “Whenever my mom’s side is over, they speak in Sicilian to each other.”

When it comes to the English language, Eenigenburg’s mom didn’t speak English until kindergarten and his grandparents have a hard Sicilian accent. Eenigenburg will admit to sometimes not understanding his grandparents.

A major custom change is the food though. Eenigenburg said his grandparents and mom make authentic Italian food, and none of the fake stuff Americans have and think is Italian.

“If you want real Italian, come over and try my grandma’s breaded steak. It’s so good,” said Eenigenburg.

Kassidy Weemhoff

Co-Arts Editor

Opeyemi Akinbobuyi was born in Lagos Nigeria and brought to America by his parents when he was one. They moved to Merrillville, Indiana where Akinbobuyi grew up. His parents, fluent in English and Urhobo, one of Nigeria’s languages, were born and raised in Lagos. After they left all of their family and moved to the States, Akinbobuyi’s younger brother was born.

Akinbobuyi is proud of being Nigerian. He says, “It makes me special. I get to say I’m not from here, and I get to have a different view on things that are going on because I grew up in a different household than most people in this area.” For Akinbobuyi, a different household means his parents speaking to him with a mix of two different languages, the occasional celebration of holidays like Nigerian Independence Day and eating a mixture of traditional American cuisine and what his parents ate when they were growing up.

All of Akinbobuyi’s relatives still live in Nigeria. He and his family visit about every five years or so, but in the meantime they communicate through social media and skype. Another way they keep in

touch is by sending packages of food or goods they don’t have in Nigeria. For example, Akinbobuyi says, “They never had Hot Cheetos before.”

Akinbobuyi said he is comfortable with who he is. When asked to give advice to a student feeling insecure from being different, he said,

“It gets better. You have to accept that you’re different and...eventually you’ll be happy that you’re different because most people around here can only say “Yeah I’ve been to Kentucky” or “I’ve been to California”, but I was born on a whole different continent...Be proud that you’re different.”

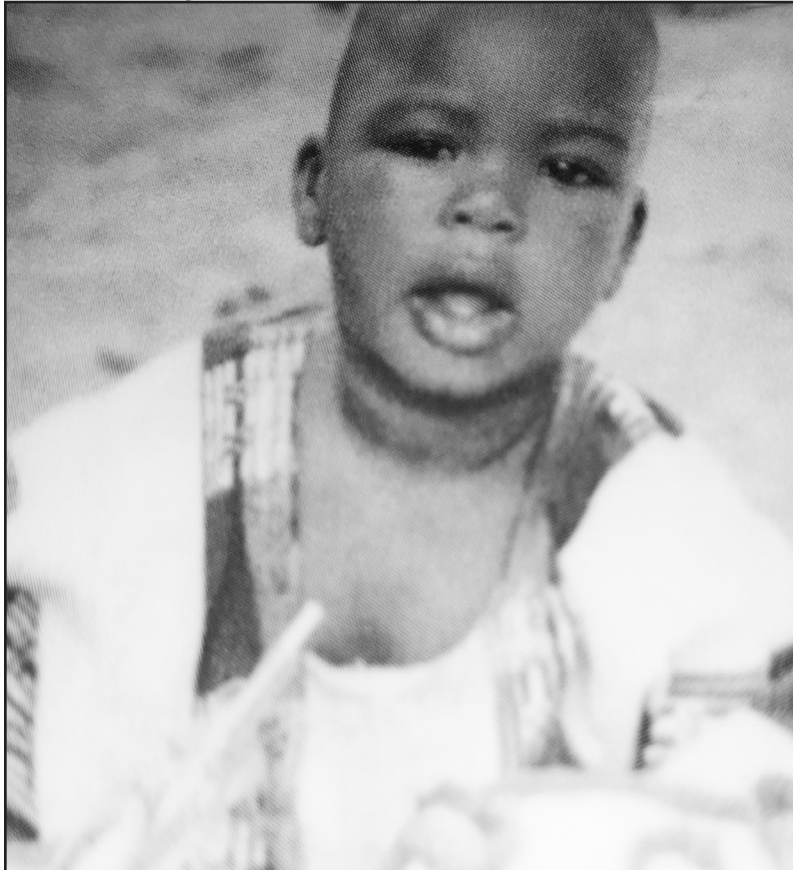


Photo courtesy of Opeyemi Akinbobuyi
Opeyemi Akinbobuyi, a senior, when he was an infant in Lagos, Nigeria.

stories from all around the world



Photo courtesy of Max Men
Max Men, a junior, poses excitedly with his mom back in China.

Elyse Dunham
Co-Feature Editor

Although Holly Krajewski is 25% Dutch, yet she isn't your average Dutch girl. She has red hair, freckles, and isn't 6 foot tall. She gets this from the Polish side of her ethnic background.

Krajewski said that when she was younger "everyone was blonde, everyone was tall, and I was really short when I as little....At first I didn't like [being different from everyone else] because everyone looked the same and I looked different, but it's fun because it's something that you know sets you apart from other people. I know especially teenagers in high school everyone's wondering 'what makes me me.' If you're different from someone else that's just an

other way that you stand out from the crowd."

From Krajewski's grandmother she received her Dutch culture. She brought Delft from the Netherlands with her to America and sometimes they attempt to make olie bollen, a type of warm, sugary dough ball with raisins in it. On her father's Polish side of the family comes the tales of her great-great-grandfather who lived all around Europe and even owned a restaurant in Cleveland. But when WWI broke out his wife wanted to go back to her family in Poland so he sold the bakery and bought a farm in Poland. Unfortunately, Communists took over his farm and Krajewski's great-great-grandfather took his son back to America and left his wife in Poland and never looked back.

"Eventually they ended up in Indiana," says Krajewski.

Riley Goodwin
Co-News Editor

Sophomore Sam Boonstra, despite his Dutch last name, has an extremely interesting Argentine heritage of which many of his classmates are unaware.

"My great grandpa stowed away on a ship from the Netherlands," said Boonstra. "...and made his way to Argentina."

He found his way into a community and married a Dutch girl and settled down, said Boonstra, which makes him Dutch by blood, Argentine through heritage. His great grandfather had 9 children, including his grandfather Juan Boonstra. Juan Boonstra and Sam's father, Principal Peter Boonstra, moved to the United States when Mr. Boonstra was 2 years

old. The Boonstra family is proud of their Argentine background and have carried on the Argentine family tradition of holding an asado, which is, more or less, a family get-together where they celebrate their heritage. This isn't the average family gathering, though. At an asado, a whole lamb is cut lengthwise, spread open, and slowly cooked over a fire. The lamb is one of the most prized animals in Argentina.

"I don't have Argentine blood in me," said Boonstra. "But I fully consider myself Argentine, because it is a very influential part of my past."

Boonstra also added that he knows many places in Argentina where his father and his grandfather are from. He also knows many Argentine foods and drinks, and he's met a few of his Argentine relatives as well.

Beth Boonstra
Co-News Editor

Junior Max Men is described as a highly diligent, talented, and ambitious student. Men Jiazhi was also born and raised in China and he came halfway around the world to study at Illiana as an international student.

Being in America for the first time this school year, Men has a unique perspective on the cultural differences between China and America. Men said that he enjoys staying with his host family, the Fabriziuses. Men said that the first two months were hardest because of the many lifestyle differences.

Men said that, apart from the food, the biggest difference is "the entire education system.... My life at Illiana is good, but tiring! Every day is filled with different

things." Men is a very involved students from honors classes to the Chinese club he started, to choir, to the "awesome drama department." And on top of all that, he's doing it all in English, his second language.

Men is glad that he's had the opportunity to do all these things. In China many students begin attending boarding schools at a very young age. "Every day focuses on assignments, tests, and grades, and there is nothing else: no sports, no drama, no clubs."

The rigorous efforts many Chinese students put forth in schooling is in order to succeed on their college entrance exam. A lot of pressure is put on students for this test because it's competitive. Only the very top students will get into the good colleges in order to get jobs, which are hard to come by in China. Men commented that

he doesn't think this educational style is good for students who are still young and growing.

A huge part of Chinese culture is Chinese New Year immediately followed by the Spring Festival, about three weeks set aside from most work and school in February to celebrate the new year. The new year is a time when Men's family gets together to celebrate, make dumplings, feast on lots of Chinese foods, and watch midnight fireworks. Men hopes to always "keep celebrating for years to come."

Men admits that China has its problems, highlighting some larger ones such as pollution and the Chinese government, but he has always been proud to be Chinese. "My favorite part about China is the food and culture. I love its rich history and language."



Photo by Elyse Dunham
Holly Krajewski, a senior, tries to show her ethnic background as much as she can while taking a picture.

Emma Slings
Reporter

Freshman Wendy Teune was born about 2,630 miles away from Illiana Christian in Mazatenango, Guatemala. That's about a forty-seven-hour car drive.

When she was about three months old, Teune was adopted by an American family and was brought to live with them in the United States.

"My parents had my older sister first and then decided to adopt me," Teune said, "but it

doesn't bother me [that I'm not their biological child] like it does with some kids."

Teune doesn't remember much about her hometown, but she knows that it was different from where she lives now.

"There's just the normal things, like climate and landscape," Teune said. "You don't see volcanoes around Lansing."

When people learn that Teune was adopted, they often jump to the conclusion that she speaks Spanish, which she does not, but her parents do include

some of her Guatemalan culture in their daily lives. They keep decorations like clocks and wooden trinkets around the house. Also, Teune's aunt traveled to Guatemala and brought back a hand-painted cross that's been hanging in her room since she was little.

When Tuene's parents were in the process of adopting her, they sent a box of clothes to her Guatemalan foster home. They brought the box back with her, which Teune says is something nice to have.

Hanna VanderWoude
Photo Editor

Sophomore, Kezia Boohene transferred to ICHS during the beginning of this school year. Boohene is African; her mother was born in Mali and her father was born in Ghana.

Even though Boohene grew up in Bronx, New York she was still able to express her Malian and Ghanaian cultures.

"It was easier to express my culture in New York because I was surrounded by many other Africans and I felt comfortable with them," said

Boohene. However, she has had a different experience in Chicago than in New York.

"When I did move to Chicago, a lot of the kids were bullying me cause they thought it was weird that I was African, because there wasn't much diversity where I went to school in Chicago," said Boohene.

Despite the bullying, Boohene still likes to express her culture. Boohene's family eats Jollof, which is like fried rice that they mix with a lot of meat and vegetables. She speaks her father's language from Ghana,

called Twi. She also celebrates Christmas a little differently than we do in the U.S.

Boohene said, "There are other holidays that we celebrate, like the independence days for both countries, and Christmas is a little different because there's a parade in Ghana that's much like Mardi Gras."

Boohene's message to all those who are feeling insecure about their ethnicity: "You're unique. Try to express your culture and learn more about it because you tend to find cooler things about yourself."

You've got many fans, "Charlie Brown"

Musical brings iconic comic strip to life

Cassie Laninga

Reporter

Illiana's musical this year, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, made its debut on March 9, 10 and 11, selling around 1,360 tickets over three night performances and a matinee.

"I think [the performances] went really well," said junior Valerie Swets who played Lucy. "Everyone worked together and

made it fantastic."

Junior Matthew Rietveld, also known as Charlie Brown said, "The best parts are being on stage and seeing the crowd and being anxious behind the curtain with everyone."

Teacher and director Mary Lagerwey said the Drama Department always chooses the play and musical together so that they have a good pairing for the year.

"This year's play, the ter-

rific *An Enemy of the People*, had a serious message aimed at a more sophisticated audience; *Charlie Brown* was a nice contrast to that," said Lagerwey. "I have always loved the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* since I first heard it many years ago as a kid because of its memorable songs and poignant message."

Junior and audience member Derek Van Prooyen said, "My favorite part was definite-



Photo by Jeff DeVries
The cast strikes a group pose after the opening song, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

ly Johnathan Lightfoot doing the supper time scene. That was the best."

Many cast and crew members mention the family that gets created while working together towards the final outcome.

Senior and student director Lizzie Wenzel said, "The best part is seeing the finished product and the family that gets created. Even though we complain about the time commitment put into it, now it's like, what will we do with all our time now?"

Departing veterans share memories, defining moments of spring musical

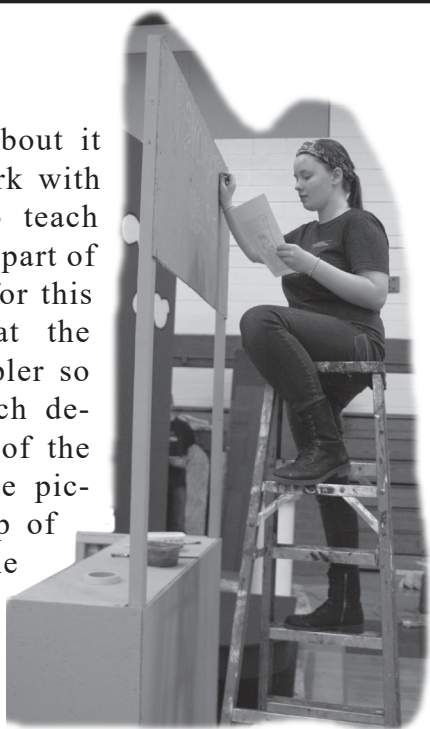
Name: Caleb Last
Position: Cast Member
Years: 4

"The community [in the drama department] is my favorite. It's a bunch of people who are crazy and just have fun... This musical was a lot simpler than some of the other musicals we've done. It's as close as we get to childhood as we can."



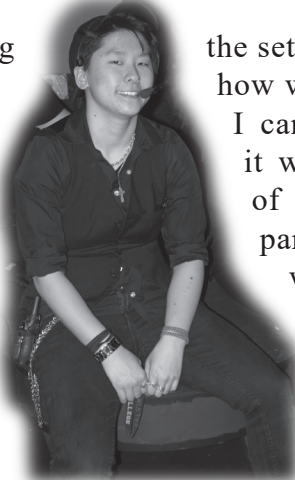
Name: Jaimie Dykstra
Position: Sets Painting
Years: 4

"My favorite part about it is being able to work with everybody and also teach other people... A big part of what was different for this production was that the sets were a lot simpler so there wasn't as much detail... One cool part of the sets was that all the pictures at the very top of the classroom scene were made by kids from feeder schools and we recreated them."



Name: Ming VanKalker
Position: Sets Construction and Sets Running
Years: 4

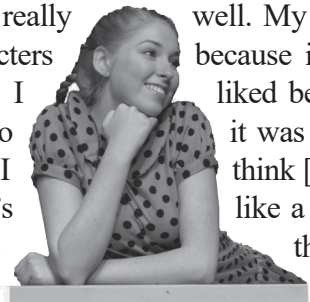
"I like building of freedom with it's nice because the way I think There's a lot the drama department all insane but fun. In *Charlie Brown* house, psychiatrist booth biggest things, but a pretty easy



the sets. We have a lot how we build stuff... I can just design it it will work best... of great people in department. We're we have a lot of *Charlie Brown* the no and psychology were the biggest overall it was build."

Name: Elyse Dunham
Position: Cast Member
Years: 4

"Drama people are really genuine so it's easy to get along with them. You spend three months with these people and you get to know them really well. My favorite parts to play are evil characters because it's more challenging, but this one I liked because I got to play a fun character so it was different from what I usually play. I think [*Charlie Brown*] is fun because it's like a comic strips in musical form, and the songs were really fun to do, too."



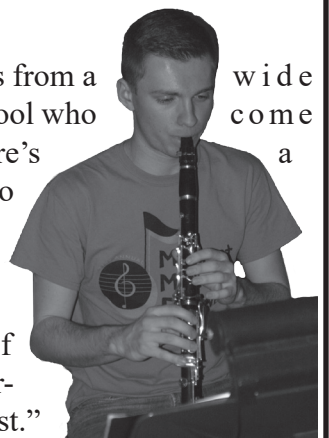
Name: Collette Bower
Position: Costumes Crew
Years: 3

"We make sure everyone's costumes are clean and that they are where they are supposed to be. We have a lot of down time and we have fun messing around in our room, but when we have things to do, we do them as best as we can to help the directors and cast out... I love how nice all the people involved in the musical are."



Name: Jack Barth
Position: Pit Orchestra
Years: 4

"It's a really cool group of students from a variety of different parts of the school who together which is a lot of fun. There's certain kind of professionalism to it; you take pride in your work whether it's tech or music or acting... It's a light-hearted musical which is a lot of fun. There's a lot of laughing in this one which is different than what we've done in the past."



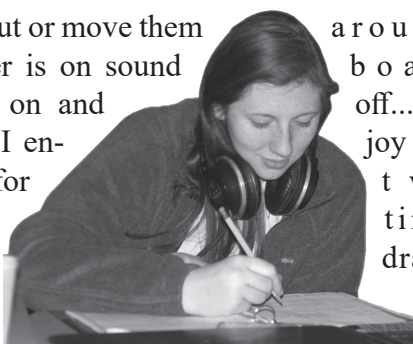
Name: Gaby Alicea
Position: Sets Running
Years: 4

"This production had 29 scene changes where for our other productions there were usually four or five. We had a lot of new people so the people who returned had a lot of responsibility... I loved meeting new people who I never would have thought I'd be friends with. These productions at Illiana really help you form a bond with different people."



Name: Holly Krajewski
Position: Tech Crew
Years: 4

"We have to go through and figure out, compared to how many actors we have, who can have mics when and when to switch them out or move them around. I have to tell whoever is on sound board off... I love the musical and I enjoy being sleep deprived for weeks; it's a good time. Being involved in is my favorite part of drama at Illiana."





Junior Austin Clark sets the ball up for Jared Jonkman to spike on Tuesday, March 21 against Nazareth Academy.

Photo courtesy of Colleen Vander Woude

Girls soccer finds winter weather toughest opponent

JP Peerbolte

Co-Sports Editor

The weather has been a tough opponent against the Lady Vikings Soccer team this year. Their first three games were cancelled because of the weather and they have also had limited practice outside because of the snow and rain. But that hasn't stopped the girls from preparing, they have been conditioning in Bethel CRC's gym when the Illiana gyms were not available.

The team will also face other challenges this season. The team's starting goalie graduated last year and she will be missed.

"We were so used to having Mikinsey Pruum stopping everything," said Senior Kayla VanderZee.

The team will no longer be able to just rely on their goalie, they need to work together if they want to succeed in the new conference.

Illiana's conference change will put the Lady Vikings up against tougher teams in the regular season. The tougher regular season play should better prepare the team for the post season.

The challenges the team has faced has helped them develop as a team. "We work really well together," said Junior Sarah Kuiper.

"We have grown close," said VanderZee. "We support each other even when we are down or when we make mistakes."

Volleyball defeats Nazareth Academy, gains confidence

Jacob Thompson

Co-Sports Editor

The boys volleyball team is off and running with a record of 1-0 with a win against Nazareth Academy on Tuesday,

March 21. The boys look forward to competing in another season strong.

Senior Jared Jonkman said, "We have a good group of seniors and a solid up and coming junior class. I'm excited to see

where we go this season."

The team consists of five seniors, six juniors, and one sophomore and has high hopes for the season.

Senior Dale DeJong talks about his hopes saying, "I think we can win a

lot of games and tournaments. We can hit the ball hard and recover and dig very well. We have many strengths and skills and I'm looking forward to honing them as the year goes on."

Track teams make waves at indoor meet

Boys Track takes 4th

Luke Hillegonds

Co-Sports Editor

The boys track team took 4th place at the Metro Suburban Track Indoor at Glenbard South High School on Saturday, March 18.

A few top performers included Senior Ryan Koontz who took first place in the 3200 meter run, junior Derek VanProyen who took 1st in the 800, senior Josh Clay who took 1st in the 400 and senior Josh Boender who claimed 1st place in the high jump.

Senior Josh Clay said, "We don't have many weaknesses at all. We can definitely be just as good as last year, but we need to keep training harder and harder because that is how we can get better."

Senior Nick Burress said, "I enjoy track because of my teammates and I enjoy that we are a strong team. We will be very successful this year because we all believe in each other. It was a great way to start the year because we have a hard conference and 4th place is pretty strong."

Girls Track takes 6th

Luke Hillegonds

Co-Sports Editor

The girls track team took 6th place out of 14 teams at the Metro Suburban Conference Indoor event at Glenbard South High School on Friday, March 17.

The 4x8 team which consisted of freshman Gillian Fiene, sophomore Cate Peerbolte, junior Maddie DeYoung, and senior Gabby Kreykes took first place.

Coach Deb Top said, "We have some strengths in the

jumping categories and in the throwing events. I also love this team's work ethic, and we have some new girls so there is still a lot of teaching and training. This was a really good start to the season and I am looking forward to the outdoor track season."

Junior Maddie DeYoung said, "Our distance team is looking pretty good and we have many options of what events we want to focus on in the future. Our 6th place finish was a good start because the teams in our conference are all big public schools."

Male Athlete of the Month

Junior Derek VanProoyen started running when he was in 8th grade. "I was really good at sprinting, so I decided to test my luck at long distance," said VanProoyen. He has been an asset to Illiana's Varsity Track and Cross Country teams the past 3 years.

VanProoyen's favorite event to run is the 1600m, but he also runs the 400m, 800m, and 3200m. This year he won the 800m run at the Metro Suburban Indoor Conference meet. In 2016, he competed in the 1600m run at the 2A Track State Championship.

He has qualified for Illinois Top Times Indoor Championship with a 4:33.73 in the 1600m run and will compete at the indoor state level on March 25.

His goals for this season include trying to get as many people down to compete at the outdoor Track State Championship as possible.



Female Athlete of the Month

Senior Deborah Smith finished 2nd place in the triple jump and 3rd place in 55m hurdles at the Lincoln Way Central meet. She followed up the next week with a 3rd place finish in triple jump and a 4th in high jump at the Metro Suburban Conference Indoor Meet.

Deborah Smith admitted, "I don't like running, so I'm glad I found the alternative of jumping, which I have really come to enjoy. My freshman year I used to freak out before a meet because I was so scared to embarrass myself. My mindset was all wrong. Now, I go out there relaxed and strive to win. I have gotten way more competitive, and now I really want to win."

Editorial

Pursuing something greater than happiness

It starts off as a wish list for Santa. From there it slowly matures into dream adventures, jobs, and families. Wishes grow up into dreams. And it's good to have dreams. Dreams are what push people to do the things they think are impossible. Dreaming brought the world the iPhone, and dreams gave people without legs a way to walk again. Dreams bring about innovation. But so often our dreams morph into a single pursuit—an attempt to find happiness.

Humans, especially Americans, have the perception that everyone deserves to be happy. Happiness is a natural right. It's in even in our Declaration of Independence: "for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." So we dream of successful careers in jobs we enjoy, romantic and beautiful spouses, adoring children, good friends, and other such things, but really what is behind them all is the same goal. We fashion our lives to find our own happiness.

But what if God's ultimate goal isn't for us to be happy? What if he's got bigger plans for us than mere happiness? The Bible is chockfull of stories about people who, like us, might have simply wished for happiness, but God wanted

something more.

Consider the prophet Elijah, for example, whose life had purposes much bigger than his own happiness. Elijah had to confront power, endure mockery, and run for his life. At one point, he even wanted to quit his story. He ran away to die. But his death wasn't God's plan, so

“We fashion our lives to find our own happiness. But what if God’s ultimate goal isn’t for us to be happy?”

God restored him to health and sent him back to Israel to finish his story. God's story for Elijah was bigger than Elijah, bigger even than the people of Israel. Elijah's story was lived for God's people throughout history. What an awesome story! But would a seventeen-year-old Elijah have found it awesome or annoying? If Elijah was like us, fixated on his own happiness, he likely hoped God had other plans—maybe a successful sheep-raising enterprise,

a pretty bride, and a handful of strong sons to take over the family farm. Moses gave excuse after excuse not to lead Israel out of Egypt, yet God used him to free his people. Esther was taken to the king's palace. She didn't choose to go, but God used her to save Israel. Jesus, at the Garden of Gethsemane,

asked the Father if he could take another path, but God had the salvation of the whole world in mind.

God isn't opposed to our happiness, but His ultimate plan isn't to make sure all his children's lives are all sunshine and rainbows. He gives us struggles and he puts us through things we don't always understand, but in the end, they help further his purpose. Through those struggles, God works in us and through us. And if we align our-

selves with his will and live into the story he has planned, we might find we are part of something better than just our own happiness.

Thoreau said, "Happiness is like a butterfly; the more you chase it, the more it will elude you, but if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder..."

Thoreau understood something that so often we don't. We chase dreams trying to find happiness, but happiness doesn't work like that. The more we pursue it, the more we fail to find it. But, in the words of Jesus, "Seek first the Kingdom, and all these things will be added to you."

Like Elijah, everyone gets a role in God's cosmic drama. In big and small ways, we get the privilege of playing a role in the greatest story of all time, and we should embrace that role, whatever it be, rather than focusing our energy on ourselves. Good or bad, it's each individual person's responsibility to fulfill their role. And happiness will come. It just might not be as obvious or as convenient as one would like, but when expected the least, it will flutter by, maybe stopping for a moment on your shoulder.

Vague worship music shames church

A pastor stood in front of his congregation on a Sunday morning. His church was straddling the line between contemporary and traditional worship for almost a decade. Although there had been a lot of tension because of that struggle, he and the worship leader felt like they had learned to pick songs that made everyone happy.

The pastor started off with the hymn "In the Garden":

He speaks, and the sound of His voice

Is so sweet the birds hush their singing, And the melody that He gave to me

Within my heart is ringing.

A few congregants grimaced at the choice. It lacked theological depth and sounded like a Hallmark card. The song never really talked about the Bible or God for that matter. However, the few figured that calling out the problems of that song wouldn't be worth the trouble.

The worship leader played a bridge on his guitar to get from the previous hymn to the next song, "Above All":

*Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall
And thought of me
Above all*

Again, some people in the pews made faces at the mixed metaphor of a trampled rose having the willpower to fall, but they kept their mouths shut. The song may have been a mix of bad poetry and even worse doctrine, but making a stir about the content would have looked strange.

Even the pastor himself felt awkward with the choice. He remembered one of his seminary professors picking apart that song in class and knew it wasn't the gospel truth. He thought about raising the issue with the worship leader but resolved to leave it be. He didn't want to appear as self-righteous or arrogant.

After the offering, the congregation rose to sing once more before the pastor's sermon. The praise band started playing the first chords, and the church joined them in singing "In the Secret":

*In the secret, in the quiet place
In the stillness You are there.
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait,
Only for You, 'cause I want to know You more*

The few uncomfortable looked down at their feet and shook their heads. The song never mentioned Jesus's name directly. It also contained no biblical truths or reference to the gospel whatsoever. Quite honestly, the song was garbage.

But those few decided that making a fuss about whether or not this song was really suitable for worship wasn't necessary. After all, the church had worked so hard to agree on worship up until this point. They sat back down in their pews quietly and turned to this morning's text, Romans 1.

As he approached the 16th verse, the subject for the day's sermon, the pastor's voice grew increasingly cramped. In church, the place it should have been easiest to emulate Paul's bold profession, he and his congregation had failed. Every song they'd sung echoed in his ears like a pealing bell announcing his hypocrisy.

He coughed several times, then mumbled the words: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power..."



Juliana Knot
Co-Editor-in-Chief

the Echo

Editors-in-chief

Collette Bouwer
Juliana Knot

News

Beth Boonstra
Riley Goodwin

Feature

Elyse Dunham
Andy Sons

Arts

Kassidy Weemhoff
Lauren Curtis

Sports

JP Peerbolte
Jacob Thompson
Luke Hillegonds

Photos

Hanna Vander Woude
JP Peerbolte

Advisor

Jeff DeVries

Editorials, unless otherwise stated, have been written by an editor and reflect the opinion of the majority of the Echo staff. Opinions expressed are not necessarily that of the administration, faculty, or student organizations.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the advisor or sent to the school. All letters must be signed and must not exceed 250 words. They will be printed provided there is enough room and content is not offensive to the general public. Names will not be withheld for doing so.

March Word Search

K	P	H	I	W	M	H	S	K	N	X	V	W	V	T
U	P	B	E	B	A	N	T	O	C	O	C	P	C	B
M	X	S	T	C	R	X	H	I	F	A	I	U	N	A
I	L	Y	H	H	C	S	E	I	I	T	R	L	I	S
V	L	X	M	A	H	M	T	S	B	M	B	T	L	E
K	A	H	B	R	M	Y	N	P	B	I	L	A	R	B
Q	B	W	A	L	A	R	A	N	A	E	E	O	L	A
R	Y	E	S	I	D	N	O	B	X	T	P	K	W	L
E	E	Y	K	E	N	T	G	C	N	G	R	P	B	L
C	L	K	E	B	E	H	E	I	K	K	E	I	R	P
C	L	C	T	R	S	E	V	O	O	S	C	B	C	A
O	O	U	B	O	S	S	I	B	U	R	H	M	T	K
S	V	L	A	W	Q	H	Y	J	S	Z	A	A	H	T
S	N	S	L	N	O	O	E	Y	J	K	U	L	K	F
K	R	M	L	U	W	W	G	M	G	P	N	U	N	E

WORD BANK

baseball, basketball, Charlie Brown, lamb, leprechaun, lion, lucky, March Madness, Shamrock Shake, soccer, softball, St. Patrick, The Show, track, volleyball

The newspaper is a forum for expression; therefore, we encourage feedback or commentary. Please contact us at theillianaecho@gmail.com